

**For Immediate Release**

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**Mayor Coleman, Council Member Tyson Unveil City Community Garden**

Mayor Coleman, Council Member Priscilla Tyson, and representatives from the Franklin Park Conservatory unveiled a Community Garden on the grounds of the old police building, 120 Marconi. The garden will feature 6 3'x12' raised beds, with one 3'x6' plot offered to each department at City Hall. The garden is sponsored by Scotts Miracle Gro, Lowe's, and ChoicDek.

**"This garden is a model for other Community Groups to develop community gardens in their neighborhoods," Mayor Coleman said. "A community garden provides many benefits to neighborhood residents. They include increasing access to healthy, fresh foods in our neighborhoods, and afford residents the opportunity to meet one another, build relationships, help their less fortunate neighbors, and contribute to the overall quality of life in the community."**

Vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, onions, lettuce, and radishes will be raised, The produce will be donated to a local food pantry. Employees who volunteer to work in the garden must do so before or after work, or on their lunch break.

**"These gardens will feed the mind, the body and the soul," said Councilmember Tyson, chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee. "They are creative outlets for active living that lead to healthier lifestyles and stronger communities in Columbus."**

Development of the community garden is also in keeping with the Mayor's Get Green Columbus initiative. Not only do community and backyard gardens provide foods locally, avoiding the emissions associated with the transportation of goods, but the Mayor's garden will feature other sustainable features. A rain barrel will store water redirected from downspouts for use in the garden, and recycled plastic lumber will border each garden plot.